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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

467 PM/K

Memorandum of Conversation (Telephone)

DATE: October 31, 1957

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 6/4/75
PER Fondres OFFICE ARA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 5-B 201

SUBJECT: Recognition of Guatemala

PARTICIPANTS: Senhor Eduardo Braga Conde, Second Secretary, Portuguese Embassy
Frederick H. Sacksteder, Jr., WE

COPIES TO: EUR
WE (2)
ARA/MID - Mr. King
ARA/P - Mr. Fromer
American Embassy, Lisbon
American Embassy, Guatemala

THIS DOCUMENT MUST BE RETURNED TO THE RM/R CENTRAL FILES

714.00/10-3157

Mr. Conde telephoned this morning to ask for a confirmation of U.S. recognition of the new Government of Guatemala which was reported in today's press. Mr. Conde explained that he had been unable to contact Mr. King of the Guatemala Desk and that his question was motivated by the desire of the Portuguese Government to accredit a non-resident Minister to the Government of Guatemala.

I called Mr. Julian Fromer, ARA/P, who confirmed that the press report was substantially correct and that the United States Government had resumed relations with the Government of Guatemala by an exchange of notes.

This information was communicated to Mr. Conde who stated that he would inform his Government and expressed appreciation for our cooperation.

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AIR PO UCH
(Security)

UNCLASSIFIED
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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

287
DESP. NO.

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

November 1, 1957
DATE

NOV 7 1957

REF 750000-1267

25 Dep Dept Bur Only	ACTION	DEPT. INFO OTHER
	CAP-4	RPMR-2, ARA 8 90-4 P-1
	REC'D 11-4	CIA-12, USTA-10 USUN-1

SUBJECT: New Provisional Government Announces Intention to Comply With International Obligations

On October 30 the Government issued a bulletin with respect to its intention to fulfill all the existing international comitments of the country. The bulletin reads in translation as follows:

"The Government of Guatemala remains faithful to the principles and standards of international law which govern the peaceful coexistence of nations and of international cooperation. It declares its firm intention to fulfill faithfully its international obligations, as well as existing treaties and agreements.

"The Government of Guatemala will maintain and improve the cordial relations which fortunately exist between this Republic and the countries of the free world, as well as its open and sincere cooperation within the United Nations, the special agencies, the Organization of American States and the Organization of the Central American States.

"Guatemala reiterates its faith in the future of Central America and its intention to exercise all its strength in the direction of Central American economic integrity and of the reconstituting of the Central American land of our forefathers.

"The matter of Belice continues to be the principal concern of the international policy of Guatemala and the Government continues to exert every effort to achieve a satisfactory solution to the problem."

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

B J Ruyle

Ben J. Ruyle
Second Secretary

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NOV 13 1957

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6/4/75

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AIR LOUGH
PRIORITY

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(Security Classification)

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA 290
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON,

November 1, 1957
DATE

REF :

6/4/75 SB 201

This document released to public per Fumbles NARA

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For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	INFO
REC'D 11/4	ARA:4	RMR:2 IRC:6 P-1 U/O-1 U/OP-1 EUR-1 C1A:2 USIA:2 TO OCB-1 NAVY-3 ARMY-4 AIR:3 LABB:5 OSD-4

SUBJECT: New Electoral Campaign Gets Under Way

With the cancelling of the October 20 Presidential elections the new electoral campaign got under way immediately. General Ydígoras was the first to initiate his new campaign with a 15 minute daily broadcast over Radiocentro Musical. He also published a newspaper advertisement on October 30 announcing the formation of a coalition of Ydígoras parties under the name Agrupación Nacional Anticomunista. The Partido Revolucionario began campaigning on November 1 with a full page advertisement in Prensa Libre, insisting that it is anti-communist and that it be legally inscribed and urging that elections be held on January 26, 1958. The MDN, meanwhile, began to emerge from its very brief absence from the headlines with the story that it may name either Ambassador Col. Peralta Azurdia or Ambassador Colonel Cruz Salazar as its new anti-communist coalition candidate.

Ydígoras supporters admit that the General has been widely accused of failing to repudiate Partido Revolucionario support during the past campaign and during the demonstrations which followed. General Ydígoras acknowledged his awareness of these insinuations in his first brief message of the new campaign over Radiocentro Musical on October 29. He insisted that he is and has been and will continue to be staunchly anti-communist. In a newspaper advertisement on October 31 in which the General stated that he had spent all his money on the past campaign and in which he requested contributions for the new one, he added that he definitely rejected communist money or help or votes and stated that he was communism's avowed enemy and that he will do all in his power to exterminate it in Guatemala and in the hemisphere.

General Ydígoras and the Partido Revolucinario presently have Congress in the middle in a tug of war over the subject of the date for the new elections. The General has called for new elections no later than November, 24. He says the economic welfare of the country demands early elections. He also argues from Article 146 of the Constitution, which states that upon the "falta absoluta del titular", Congress must convoke new elections, to be held within four months. General Ydígoras interprets "titular" to mean a popularly elected President, as opposed to a provisional incumbent such as González López or Flores Avendaño. This interpretation obviously requires

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elections (including repeat elections, according to the General) during the period ending November 26, 1957. This would preclude the inscription of a Partido Revolucinario candidate. It is not likely that Congress will accept this interpretation. At the moment Congress and the people appear tacitly to accept the likelihood of new elections on one of the Sundays of January 1958.

In its newspaper advertisement of November 1 the Partido Revolucinario makes five points. It states that it is genuinely democratic; that it has no communist connections and is capable of preventing communist infiltration; that it is continuing its struggle to obtain legal inscription and to obtain the registration of Mario Méndez Montenegro as its candidate for President; that it respects the constitution and the laws of the land but demands this same respect on the part of the Government and is determined to resist in the future, as in the past, any attempt to mock these rights; and that it requests January 26, 1958 as the date for the next election. The Embassy encloses ten copies of this manifesto.

The MDN apparently expects the election date to be postponed long enough to permit it to inscribe a new candidate to replace Ortiz Passarelli. El Espectador on October 30 carried an editorial stating that Ambassador Col. Cruz Salazar is a logical candidate for the anti-communist bloc. Mundo Libre stated on October 31 that Col. Cruz Salazar has the blessing of the Department of State. It implies that he could draw together the support of the Army and of the anti-communist bloc.

Meanwhile, Congress did not annul the Congressional elections of October 20. It left this determination to the Electoral Tribunal, whose three members (sworn in October 31 to replace the Tribunal which resigned following the October 20 elections) are expected to reach a decision soon.

In any case, Congress is expected to act within the next few days to set a date for new Presidential elections. At the moment, it appears that this date will be either January 19 or January 26.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

Ben J. Ruyle
Second Secretary

Enclosures:
As stated